

IN THE CLAIMS

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Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A hybrid protein comprising ~~consisting essentially of~~:  
an ABC transporter membrane protein comprising a ligand-binding portion of MRP1,  
a spacer, ~~and~~  
an ATP-sensitive potassium ion channel portion of Kir 6.2 from the Kir family which  
~~is not naturally coupled to said ABC transporter membrane protein, and, optionally,~~  
a tag,

wherein said spacer is between said ABC transporter membrane protein and said  
ATP-sensitive potassium channel, and

wherein said membrane protein, spacer, and potassium channel are functionally  
coupled so that ligand binding to the ABC transporter membrane protein transduces a signal  
to the potassium channel that produces an electrical signal.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The hybrid protein of claim 1, wherein said spacer  
consists of six glycine or ten glutamine residues.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The hybrid protein of claim 1, which comprises a tag[[,]] to  
facilitate the detection and/or the purification of said hybrid protein.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The hybrid protein of claim 1, which comprises SEQ

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~~wherein said membrane protein is a receptor.~~